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City of Cleveland Provides General Updates on Coronavirus (COVID-19) Protocols -Update #1

CLEVELAND – Today, Mayor Frank G. Jackson announced the City of Cleveland is taking numerous precautions across multiple departments and divisions amid increasing cases of COVID-19 or Novel Coronavirus in the United States. Although there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in Cleveland or the State of Ohio as of today, Cleveland is implementing a planned response to any cases reported within the city.

The City is also working in partnership with local safety agencies, county public health, county emergency management and area hospitals to ensure proper coordination with and adherence to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

The City's overall emergency preparedness plans are also being adjusted due to multiple unknowns about the coronavirus.

City Operations:

All departments within the City of Cleveland are currently operating at a normal capacity. The Cleveland Department of Public Health is monitoring national, state and local activity surrounding COVID-19 and will provide updates and notifications as needed.

First Responders:

All first responders within the Department of Public Safety divisions of Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Service have been provided with directives relative to safety and exposure to coronavirus and other infectious diseases. First responders follow daily protocols on infectious disease and will continue to serve the public if any cases are reported in the area. [Click here to download the COVID-19 protocols from the Cleveland Department of Public Safety.](#)

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport:

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport continues to sanitize airport facilities. In addition, the airport emergency preparedness and response protocols have been reviewed with stakeholders. The airport is working closely with health professionals to continuously update employees and stakeholders.

Emergency Operations Center/Joint Information Center

To assist in coordinating City operations, Cleveland will partially activate its Emergency Operations Center and Joint Information Center during business hours beginning Monday, March 9, 2020. All media inquiries regarding COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus should be directed to the Mayor's Office of Communications. The City is also working with the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management to coordinate broader regional messaging. Updates will be provided as available.

Planned Activities and Events:

No planned activities or events have been canceled at this time. Large scale events, including the 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade, are expected to occur as planned.

General Facts About Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new virus strain spreading from person-to-person in China and other countries, including the United States. Health experts are concerned because little is known about this new virus and it has the potential to cause severe illness and pneumonia in some people. No cases of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) have been reported in Cleveland nor within the state of Ohio as of today. [A shareable fact sheet is available from the Cleveland Department of Health listing CDC guidelines](#) on coronavirus.

- **How does COVID-19 spread?**

Health experts are still learning the details. Currently, it is thought to spread through the air by coughing or sneezing, by close personal contact, touching an object with the virus on it and then touching mouth, nose or eyes and in rare cases contact with feces.

- **How severe is COVID-19?**

Experts are still learning about the range of illness from COVID-19. Reported cases have ranged from mild illness to severe pneumonia requiring hospitalization. So far, deaths have been reported mainly in older adults who had other health conditions.

- **What are the Symptoms?**

Symptoms can include fever, cough and difficulty breathing. The symptoms can be mild or severe.

- **Who is at risk for COVID-19?**

Currently, the risk to the general public is considered low. To minimize the risk of spread, health officials are working with healthcare providers to promptly identify and evaluate any suspected cases. Travelers to and from certain areas of the world may be at increased risk.

Although coronavirus originated geographically in Wuhan, China, the disease is not specific to any ethnic group. **Chinese ancestry – or any other ancestry – does not make a person more vulnerable to this illness.**

- **How can I prevent from getting COVID-19?**

If you are planning to travel, please follow the CDC's guidance: www.cdc.gov/travel
Right now, there are no additional precautions recommended for the general public. There are steps you can take to prevent the spread of flu and common cold which will also help to prevent coronavirus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If hand washing facilities are not available, use hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others
- Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing

Currently, there are no vaccines available to prevent COVID-19 infections. Additionally, the CDC, U.S. Surgeon General and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommend that face masks are only worn by health workers and those caring for someone in close settings to help prevent the spread of disease to others. Face masks should not be worn if you are well.

- **How is COVID-19 treated?**

There are no medications specifically approved for coronavirus. Most people with mild coronavirus illness will recover on their own by drinking plenty of fluids, resting and taking pain and fever medications. However, some cases may develop pneumonia and require medical care and hospitalization.

For more information about COVID-19, visit the following links:

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
- <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Novel-Coronavirus/2019-nCoV>
- <http://www.clevelandhealth.org/>

About the City of Cleveland

The City of Cleveland is committed to improving the quality of life for its residents by strengthening neighborhoods, delivering superior services, embracing diversity and making Cleveland a desirable, safe city in which to live, work, play, and do business. For more information on the City of Cleveland, visit online at www.clevelandohio.gov, Twitter at @cityofcleveland or Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofcleveland.

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